

250 attendees are expected to arrive for this week end conference

## Aruba Airport Authority ready to receive SITE delegates



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is busy placing the final touches on the banners, footsteps and staff orientations regarding the upcoming SITE International Conference being held in Aruba, October 30, 2009 – November 2, 2009.

Incentive Meetings and Conferences are an important niche market AAA has always supported our Tourism Partners Aruba Tourism Authority and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association. AAA is very aware that every aspect of the visit from arrival through departure is of vital importance.

It is therefore that we have ensured and committed to having all attendees be welcomed with a warm welcome and proceed through the arrival process as smoothly, safely and quickly as possible.

“Welcome to Aruba – from all of us at Aruba Airport Authority” said Peter Steinmetz, “we hope that the conference will be successful, the networking opportunities positive, the educational seminars informative and the social events fun! We look forward to harvesting many important conferences in years to come.” □

## Cheap Caribbean Flights includes Aruba



By Michelle Higgins  
Airfares may be climbing, but there are several new bargains to the Caribbean.

JetBlue began a new, nonstop flight to Saint Lucia from New York yesterday, with flights every Monday, Thursday and Sunday. To mark the new service, the airline is offering

special fares for travel between Nov. 2 and February 8, 2010 (except around the busy December holidays).


American, which has a competing flight to St. Lucia, is running sales to St. Thomas and St. Croix, with low fares for travel Oct. 22 to Dec. 15, not including taxes and fees.

Booking must be made by Nov. 3 to take advantage of the low rates.

JetBlue put more Caribbean destinations on sale, among them Aruba, Puerto Rico, and St. Maarten, with special fares if booked by Oct. 30.

And Air Tran is offering its own low one-way fares in a sale that includes Aruba and San Juan.

Watch for deals to Kingston, Jamaica, later this week when JetBlue will begin service there on Oct. 30. □



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## SITE Friends

**SITE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2**



*With the refinery in Aruba undergoing evaluation for strategic alternatives*

# Valero CEO says no plan to shut Del. City refinery

By Erwin Seba

HOUSTON, Oct 27 (Reuters) - Valero Energy Corp (VLO.N) Chairman and Chief Executive Bill Klesse said on Tuesday the company had no plans to shut its 210,000 barrel per day refinery in Delaware City, Delaware, "because there's lots of value there." Analysts quizzed Klesse during a conference call to discuss the company's third-quarter earnings about the future of the Delaware City refinery and one in Paulsboro, New Jersey. Valero has said its refineries in Delaware City, Paulsboro and Aruba are undergoing evaluations for strategic alternatives, which some in the sector have said could lead to sales. East Coast refineries are seen as especially vulnerable in the current economic downturn, with analysts warning of

shutdowns and closures of refineries in that region. On Oct. 6, Sunoco said it would idle its refinery in Eagle Point, New Jersey, due to poor refining margins. Earlier this year, Valero indefinitely shut its 235,000 bpd Aruba refinery because of poor refining margins. The Aruba refinery supplied intermediate refined product feedstocks to Valero's East Coast and Gulf Coast refineries. "I'm not saying we are going to shut it in any case because there's a lot of value there," Klesse said about the Delaware City refinery. In contrast to Aruba, Delaware City is a sophisticated refinery, he said, capable of producing finished refined products. The refinery can more easily adjust operations and spending to realize better margins. The 185,000 bpd Paulsboro



refinery benefits from its lube oil production, some of which is sold under a long-term contract to Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N), Klesse said. "Historically, it's 10,000

barrels per day," Klesse said of Paulsboro's lube oil production. "But it's had very good margins." The company will continue

to monitor margins into the spring to see if it needs to adjust operating plans at Delaware City, he said. "We will see how we look next spring," Klesse said. □










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# Plan B a solid alternative, Bijleveld tells Parliament



THE HAGUE--Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten is maintaining that the General Act of Kingdom Government (Algemene Maatregel van Rijksbestuur Amvrb) is a good alternative to guarantee the proper functioning of countries Curaçao and St. Maarten. Bijleveld-Schouten stated this in a letter she sent to the Second Chamber last Friday. The General Act, the Amvrb, would regulate on a Kingdom level, or partly on Kingdom level, tasks that the countries cannot execute. The Amvrb is part of the famous Plan B in case Curaçao and St. Maarten would not be able to comply with all conditions as set out in the Final Declaration of November 2006 where it comes to assuming all tasks and responsibilities.

According to the State Secretary, the Amvrb proposal, which was sent to the Dutch Parliament earlier, would include a system of guarding the execution of plans of approach developed by the islands. The Amvrb would also make it possible for the Kingdom Council of Ministers to intervene if that proved necessary. Referring to the concerns in the Dutch Parliament about the likelihood of St. Maarten not being able to comply with all of the conditions, Bijleveld-Schouten said that she too took into account that the island would not be able to properly execute all tasks as a country. "Of course I have weighed the consequences of such and I have considered possible alternatives. As you know I have always indicated that I have a Plan B. The Netherlands is

critical whether St. Maarten will be able to comply with all set conditions," said the State Secretary in her letter to Parliament.

"By now St. Maarten also realises that there are many concerns about the execution of tasks that are deemed essential by the Netherlands and has shown willingness to voluntarily subject itself to the Amvrb - even if that means that the Kingdom Council of Ministers can give directions," stated Bijleveld-Schouten.

"That makes the Amvrb an effective solution to come to realise actual improvements and to realise the set conditions. It also gives content to the package that I had aimed for Plan B," the State Secretary said.

In her letter, Bijleveld-Schouten also indicated that it was "not responsible to keep St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire within the Antillean Constellation longer than

strictly necessary." She said it was necessary to take the measures to formally end the Netherlands Antilles.

The State Secretary in her letter also addressed issues such as the political situation in Bonaire, the amendment of the Kingdom Charter, other Kingdom consensus laws, the Tax law for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba,

the international money laundering investigation in Bonaire and the children's homes in the Netherlands Antilles.

Bijleveld-Schouten has a meeting with the Second Chamber's Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ this Wednesday to discuss constitutional and other developments. □



*Special Month of October!*

<b>Appetizer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish Soup</li> <li>• Onion Soup</li> <li>• Conch Fritters</li> <li>• Escargot</li> <li>• Salad</li> </ul>
<b>Entrée</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fresh Catch of the Day</b> prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.</li> <li>• <b>Jumbo Shrimp</b> from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.</li> <li>• <b>Filet Mignon</b> 8 oz. US Tenderloin</li> <li>• <b>Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast</b></li> </ul>
<b>Dessert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate or Banana Cake</li> <li>• Ice Cream</li> <li>• Coffee / Tea</li> </ul>

\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

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# Coastal Clean Up With De Palm Tours



ORANJESTAD – De Palm Tours in collaborations with its own Destination Management Services company conducted a coastal cleanup in preparations for the upcoming SITE, International Conference '09. As members of the Society of

Incentive & Travel Executives are beginning to arrive here for their important business brainstorming and exchange, de Palm Tours' associates hit the road scouring the portion of the well-traveled stretch of wilderness between the Natural

Bridge, the Bushiribana goldmine ruins and Warriruri Beach, in an effort to clean up the landscape and contribute to the untouched, pristine look of Aruba's popular touring and visiting destinations. "The traveling executive,"

says Patrick Fortin, on behalf of De Palm Tours, "will surely explore the area, and we'd like them to experience a cleaner Aruba."

This team effort shared by different companies, started with a walk from the Natural Bridge, to Bushiribana and further up to Warriruri, and yielded 80 garbage bags.

Most of the debris in the area is brought in by the sea, Fortin remarks, but still it must be cleaned up in order to make Aruba's northern-coast

ready for inspection. Many thanks are hereby sent to the associates who lent a hand to the successful cleanup.

Aruba will be hosting the Site International Conference from October 30th to November 2nd, with SITE members from around the globe coming here to conduct business, network and exchange information, the event is designed to showcase the Aruban tourism product to hundreds of delegates who are the top minds in incentive travel, a multi-billion dollar global industry. □

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Final Drawing Kia Car Give-Way At Stellaris Casino October 30th

## Dress To Impress At The Halloween Monster Bash



PALM BEACH – The final week of October calls for exciting events at the Stellaris Casino. The casino kicks off with broadcasting the first Major League Baseball (MLB) game on Wednesday October 28th, where casino guests can enjoy the game on the big screen. The same evening, Stellaris weekly ladies night takes place with cash prize give-aways of \$1,000 in total. All guests are welcome to pick up their free tickets at the casino VIP desk and enjoy the double happy hour from 7:00PM – 11:00PM.

On Friday October 30th the final drawing of the Super Cool “Pimping” Car Give-away promotion will take place in the Stellaris Casino. Guests will make chance to win a brand new KIA car valued over \$28,089. In addition, casino guests can win \$2,809 in cash prizes.

There is still some time left

to participate in this super car promotion. You will make chance by earning 20 points for each free raffle ticket. This can be done by playing the many coinless slot machines in the Stellaris Casino. The final drawing starts at 8:30PM and the big winner of the brand new KIA car will be announced at 11:30PM.

Saturday October 31st marks the Halloween Monster bash of 2009 at the Stellaris Casino. This day starts at 4:00PM with full excitement the Halloween Bingo Bash. Casino guests make chance to win up to \$3,000 in cash prizes. Guests that purchase 3 bingo cards will receive 1 bingo card for free. During the intermission the Bingo Hot Shot of the month October will be announced. Guests can win a total of \$1,500 for the Hot Shot prizes. The Bingo Hot Shot winner of the month will receive \$500, a dinner for two

at Marriott’s Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant and two free bingo cards for the month of November.

At night, Halloween will come alive at the Stellaris Casino. All guests are encouraged to dress to impress for the Halloween Monster bash upon last year’s successful Halloween celebration. This year, the best spooky costume will win a total of \$600 in cash. To celebrate the spirit of Halloween, special jelly shots will be handed out together with \$1,000 in cash prizes for the Halloween drawing. Free raffle tickets can be obtained daily at the casino VIP desk. Live entertainment will be provided by local band NBO along with drinks, snacks and a Halloween happy hour. The Stellaris Casino looks forward to celebrate Halloween with you. □



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*SITE IC 2009*

## The Radisson is Getting Ready for Business without Boundaries,



**PALM BEACH** – An increase level of activity was reported this week at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa as the engineering and landscaping department ranks were fortified by members of all other departments for a general early-morning beach & garden clean up.

Organized by Director of Operations Rachel Noordermeer the resort prepared for the arrival of SITE, the Society of Incentive & Travel Executives which will spend a few memorable days on the island. Aruba will be hosting the Site International Conference from October 30th to

November 2nd, with SITE members from around the globe coming here to conduct business, network and exchange information.

Heather Nash, Director of Events & Industry Relations for SITE, Freddy Muller, 2009 International Conference Chair, and Aruba's own Wichita Villacres, who was appointed by SITE International as the co-chair of the IC 2009, report that the event is designed to showcase the Aruban tourism product to hundreds of delegates who are the top minds in incentive travel, a multi-billion dollar global industry. The 2009 International Conference will be held at the two official host hotels, the Westin Aruba Resort and the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. □



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# Survivor pays tribute to Solihull pilot killed in Caribbean plane crash

By Nick McCarthy

BRAVE Midland pilot Robert Mansell sacrificed himself to save passengers when his plane ditched into the Caribbean sea, tearful survivors confirmed today. Mr Mansell, aged 32, originally from Knowle, near Solihull, died after ditching his light aircraft into the sea after an engine failed during an island-hop flight.

He was knocked unconscious by the impact and passengers battled desperately to release him from his safety belt as the plane began to sink. But they lost their fight to save him and his body has still not been recovered. All nine passengers survived the crash which happened as Mr Mansell was flying them from the island of Curacao, north of Venezuela, to the neighbouring island of Bonaire.

Survivor Erik Hagedoorn, from Wilemstad, Holland, was among those who posted a YouTube tribute to Mr Mansell. He said: "With tears in my eyes, I am watching this video."

"Pilot Mansel saved me and all others who were on board by landing as best as possible. We had a chance to escape."

"Because of him I am still alive."

He said the passengers, a mixture of Dutch tourists and local island people, all owed their lives to him.

He said: "I certainly know one thing. It is because of the pilot that our aeroplane landed so smoothly we have all survived."

"The landing on the sea gave us the opportunity to come out."

"It is quite awful that only he has not survived."

"I called my wife and mother and put on a life



jacket. The water came very close. At one point I thought it is finished."

Mr Mansell was flying a twin-engine Britten-Norman Islander for Divi Divi Air.

In a final Mayday call he said: "I've lost one of my engines – so long."

Divi Divi spokesman Simon Janzen said: "He's a hero. All the passengers survived and he is the only

one missing. If he wasn't a good pilot, he couldn't have ditched it so everyone could be saved."

"Other pilots wouldn't have known what to do but he landed the aircraft so that everyone could get out safely."

Mr Mansell studied aeronautical engineering at Bristol University, before training for his pilot's licence in Australia.

He flew for two companies in the Solomon Islands, about 800 miles west of Papua New Guinea, before returning to the UK.

He then joined Divi Divi Air, which was established in 2001 on the island of Curacao in the Caribbean.

The Royal Netherlands Navy as today still searching for Mr Mansell's body and wreckage of the plane. □

## Dine in the "Heart of the Aruba" at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating. The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95.**

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470



*With sexy, sensuous and seductive Banfi wines*

## Perfect synergy between Bella Luna Restaurant, Banfi wines and Romar Trading



**PALM BEACH** - Only superlatives are in order when describing the absolutely perfect dinner, held at Bella

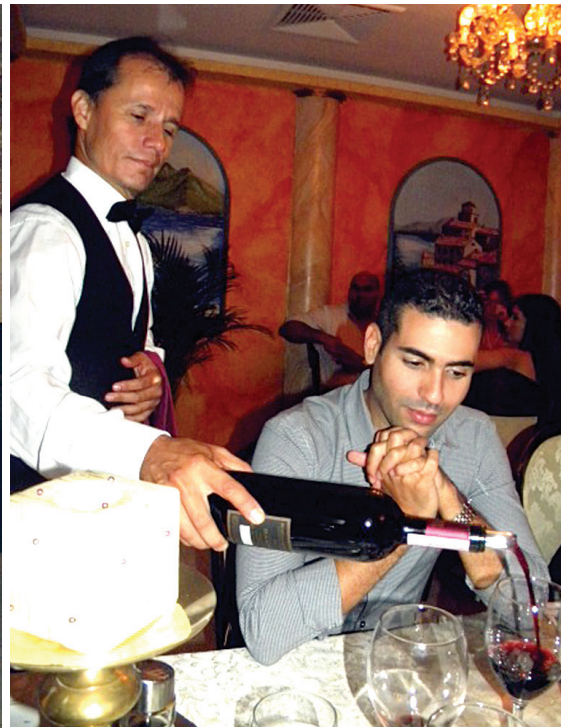
Luna Restaurant last Saturday evening. The invitation came from Romar Trading's Clive Faustin, the venue was lovely

Bella Luna Restaurant in Noord and the wines came from Tuscany and Piedmont, Italy. Guest of honor was the



sparkling, warm Mrs. Sharron McCarthy, nicknamed America's first Lady of Wine. Sharron more than deserves her honorary title: she is knowledgeable, funny, very outgoing and informative. About seventy guests had a 'palatial' blast! The evening started with a glass of Banfi Principessa Gavi, a straw colored wine with a light, fruity bouquet ('perlante on the tongue,' elaborated Sharron) and when the guests were seated, they were treated to another glass of this lovely wine which then accompanied Prosciutto wrapped prawns and sautéed pesto potatoes. The second course was a Beef Tenderloin Carpoaccio, treated to a superb Banfi Tavernelle Cabernet Sauvignon. Its complex berry bouquet with cassis overtones was a true delight. And the interesting history of the House of Banfi as told by Sharron was greatly enjoyed by the guests. "Drinking a glass of white wine is like kissing your brother or sister," joked Mrs.

McCarthy, "but drinking a glass of red wine is like kissing your lover." The Tavernelle Cabernet proved just that! The third course was a stunning, prime quality Veal T-bone, which received the highest compliments; the spicy, supple Banfi Brunello di Montalcino that was poured complemented the dish to perfection. For dessert there was a Almond Cake filled with berries, accompanied with a Banfi Rosa Regale, a sweet wine which tasted of raspberries and strawberries. Wrapping up the evening, Sharron let the wines that had been poured pass the review: "sexy, sensuous and seductive," she called them. She then proceeded to thank new Bella Luna owners Marietta and Juan Carlos, the expert waiting staff, Romar Trading and its wine team and she asked for a hearty round of applause for Chef Renato de Cuba, who had performed miracles in his kitchen. A wonderful, wonderful evening ☐





# Chocolate, Champagne & Sushi perfectly mixed at Gari & Wasabi



**PALM BEACH** – This past Saturday the night started and ended at Gari & Wasabi, there was no other place on the Island to be but there. This non-traditional Sushi restaurant is a fusion of Japanese and Caribbean cooking. After being a hit with both locals and tourists, it hosted it's first party, which was the fifth edition of "I love



chocolate". The most fashionable, trendy, hippest came out and partied the night away under the lounge, house and trance music of local superstar dj's Yeimy and Jason Croes. Owners Izaira Mansur and Berhjeny Perez, being the perfect host dedicating time to welcome and speak to every single guest while enjoying their exotic sushi's and the big chocolate fondue inside. Everybody gave up their trendy cosmos, their scotch on the rocks and gave in to the signature drinks of the night



all created with the Martini Rossi Rose Champagne. Whether it was the green tea martini or the chocolate martini... to name a few, all made with the Rossi Rose Champagne were flowing like water for the evening. Just being there would of brought back memories of the 90's

movie staring Kevin Costner field of dreams "Build it and they will come" well "Create and host it, they will come". Gari & Wasabi is located in Palm Beach 6-D open daily for the ones who dare to have the ultimate dinning experience. Every night is a great night! □



## October Seafood Fest

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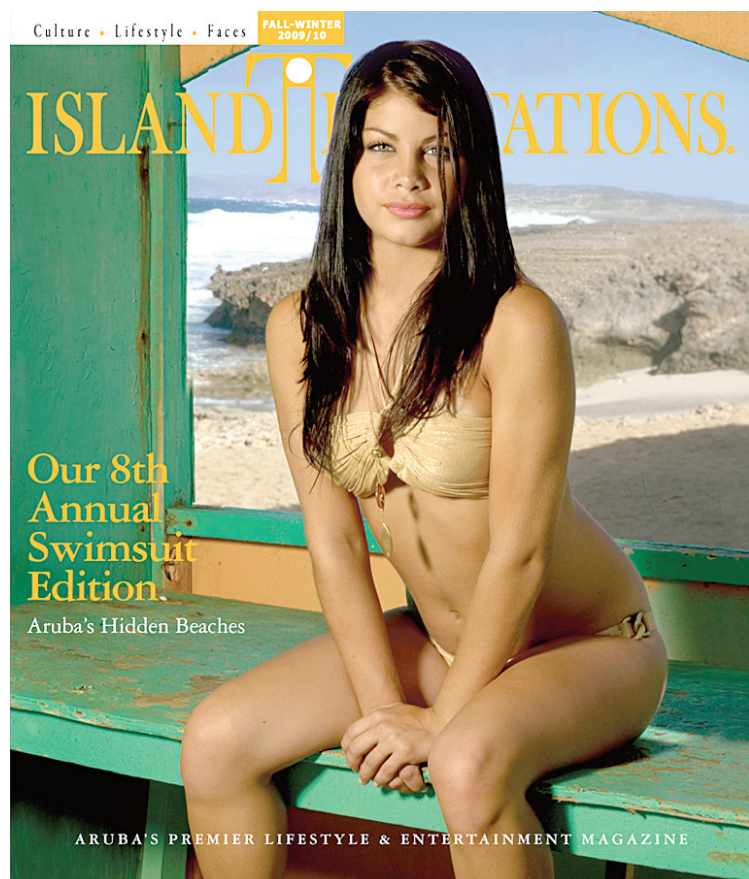
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OPEN FOR DINNER FROM 5:30 TILL 11 PM



*The new edition of Island Temptations is here!*

# A celebration of holidays and homegrown traditions



ORANJESTAD – The 24<sup>th</sup> edition of Island Temptations is now on the Island and also being distributed in the North American market to representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority, the Aruba Convention Bureau, Aruba Certified Experts (ACE agents), and the island's tourism partners and wholesalers.

The Fall-Winter 2009/10 edition marks the magazine's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Swimsuit edition, with gorgeous shots taken at some of the island's lesser-known "hidden beaches." The new edition also features a creative look into Aruba's culturally-diverse celebration of holidays. Homegrown traditions are explored with holidays indigenous to Aruba, like Betico Day and National Anthem and Flag Day, as well

as worldwide holidays like Christmas and New Year that are infused with a special Aruban flavor.

"This latest edition exemplifies Island Temptations' commitment to share our unique and dynamic culture with the rest of the world," says Rona Coster, the magazine's director of marketing and public relations, "and our creative team, headed by Tina Causey-Escobedo, continues to find magical and original ways to present the island in words and images that is unparalleled by any other Caribbean publication."

Island Temptations is available in the lobbies of island resorts, restaurants and cafes, Ling & Sons Super Center, and many island retail outlets. □



## St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta Gears Up

Early registration for the January 21- 24, 2010 St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta are coming in at full speed. Several classic and vintage yachts have again announced their participation, "Lone Fox", winner of the last and the previous regatta, and Richard West's Anguillian yacht "Charm III" which also won the regatta twice will both be back. In addition, previous unknown yachts to this classic regatta will also race. Philip Walwyn, owner of the well know 12M "Kate", has now also acquired a classic Philip Rhodes designed yacht that will participate. Beautiful authentic 1910 build Cornwall Crabber vintage yacht Magnolia will celebrate its 100th birthday, having undergone a complete refit, she is ready to sail.

The upcoming regatta will include with the typical "WorkBoats" and for the first time, the traditional wooden sloops from the Grenadines build mainly in Carriacou. Laurie Gumbs from Anguilla, who has been helping out during all the previous regattas as buoy and mark layer has acquired one of those and will participate in the event. All the Caribbean owners of those

boats have been contacted by the organization in the hope to attract several more.

In addition, a 'Spirit of Classic' class will be included to give yacht owners a chance to participate with boats that are do not technically qualified in Classic, Vintage, Spirit of Tradition or other existing classes, but are still old and have classic lines or other capacities. Owners of those "look alike" classics are invited to contact the technical committee in order to submit their yacht for inspection and approval to participate.

The beautiful yacht 'Grote Meid' owned by Paul Van Koelen has undergone a huge and complete haul over/refit in Curacao and will sail back to SXM together with the classic yacht 'Alert' to participate in the regatta. 'Grote Meid' offers a 3 day regatta participation charter for US \$1000 per person to interested businesses or private persons. Regatta charters are also available on board several other classics during the event. For more information check out [www.ClassicYachtForCharter.com](http://www.ClassicYachtForCharter.com)

In addition to the Classic

Yacht Regatta, on Saturday January 23rd, 2010, the 12M Challenge America's Cup boats will be racing in Great Bay. Famous St. Maarten/ St. Martin VIP's and stars from other countries will participate together with people from the general public in this "regatta in a regatta" to raise funds for the Nature Foundation and the Sint Maarten Diabetes Foundation. The 12 M Challenge have donated the use of their race yachts for the event and tickets will be offered starting at US \$100.

Aquamanía from Pelican is this year's sponsor of the spectator catamaran "Tango" for VIP's and general public on Friday. Reservations can be made through the regatta office or directly through Aquamanía Adventures. Spectator tickets are available for US \$25 per person. [aquamania@sintmaarten.net](mailto:aquamania@sintmaarten.net), phone: 599 544 2640 / 544 2631. In addition, the St. Maarten based day charter schooner "PASSAAT" will participate again in January and is also sponsor as VIP ship on Friday during the regatta. Spectator tickets to sail on board Passaat for the general public can be



**Magnolia, an authentic 1910 build Cornwall Crabber sailboat that has been completely restored by Mike Stam in St. Maarten.**

reserved for every regatta day at [sailholiday@caribserve.net](mailto:sailholiday@caribserve.net) or phone: +5995803301

As previously announced, Holland House Beach Hotel on the boardwalk and Frontstreet in Philipsburg is the new main venue for the regatta and hosts the event headquarters. The regatta office will be in the conference room in the

hotel lobby the week prior to the regatta and during all regatta days. Holland House is also one of the main event sponsors. Fort Louis Marina in Marigot will be the first race day venue and arrival place on Friday with the marina again offering, subject to availability, complementary dock space for the classic yachts. □



# DP says changes to ERNA shouldn't be for convenience

PHILIPSBURG--Proposed changes to the Islands Regulation of the Netherlands Antilles ERNA 1951 should facilitate the transition to country status and not be made purely to rectify deficiencies faced by government, said opposition Democratic Party leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams. She cautioned against the implementation of "convenience legislation"

## CFT: St. Maarten has until Nov. 18 to submit budget

PHILIPSBURG--The Committee for Financial Supervision CFT has given the Executive Council of St. Maarten until November 18 to submit the budget for 2010. If this should not happen, the CFT will report to the Dutch government that it has not received a budget from the Island Territory of St. Maarten and the island will have to deal with the consequences.

CFT Chairman Hans Weitenberg said the Executive Council "has promised us" that it will do its utmost to submit the budget by November 18. "The Executive Council knows that we have shown consideration by giving it three extra months to submit a budget. We understand that there were extraordinary circumstances, but there is an end to that consideration," he said.

The Island Government had to submit the 2010 budget by mid-August. After realising that it could not submit a budget by that date, the Executive Council asked the CFT for an extension. The CFT granted a new date of September 15.

"We are now at the end of October and we do not have a budget, only preliminary forecasts. So now we expect a budget by November 18 or we will have to report to the Dutch government that we have not received a budget from this island," Weitenberg said. He said the committee had met with the Executive Council on Monday morning and informed it of the new date. He said the council had indicated that there still existed a deficit of NAf. 20-30 million guilders and measures would be taken in the next 10 days which, the council hoped, would reduce the deficit significantly. However, Weitenberg said, although the CFT was curious to know what those measures were, the Executive Council could not provide any specifics.

Regarding the submission of an unbalanced budget, or a "realistic budget" as Commissioner of Finance Xavier Blackman terms it, Weitenberg explained that it would be up to the Dutch government to decide if this was acceptable.

He noted that there was no provision under the law that allowed St. Maarten to submit an unbalanced budget. The BES islands, for example, negotiated a provision that gave those islands three years to operate with unbalanced budgets until 2011, when they have to submit balanced budgets. St. Maarten and Curaçao have no such provision.

While CFT regulations stipulate that the island should submit a balanced budget, Weitenberg said the onus would be on the government of St. Maarten to explain why the Dutch should deviate from this regulation. In this context he said the Dutch government might have some consideration because of the decline in the receipt of taxes for the island because of the global financial crisis. □

just to fill a gap or a need of, in particular, the Island Government. No further comment was made on the proposed changes by the DP leader, because the party is yet to receive a copy of the draft legislation or any information about the National Alliance (NA)/Heyligher government's position on the changes.

The proposed changes include increasing of the number of commissioners from five to seven; the island council seats from 11 to 15 and to allow for the dissolving of the island councils of St. Maarten and Curaçao prior to the expiration of the present term in 2011.

The proposed changes are not a new matter or a surprise, because they had been

discussed by the Constitutional Affairs Minister with the former DP government in the past, Wescot-Williams said. A letter with outlining some of the changes was sent to the then DP government in April. Important now are not the changes, but the context within which these changes will be made, the accompanying elucidation and the connection these have with the transfer of Central Government authorities to the island in preparation for country status, Wescot-Williams said in a party press conference Monday.

Minister Duncan had explained in a press statement that the draft law, part of the package of legislation

executing constitutional change, was a further necessary and important step in the constitutional process, moving St. Maarten closer to country status.

The draft amendments were proposed by Duncan and Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage.

Duncan said he would strive to have the draft legislation approved by Parliament before the end of this year, so that it could become effective along with other constitutional legislation already in progress, such as the draft ordinance to transfer the powers and authority of the Central Government, which has already been submitted to the Advisory Council. □



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## St. Maarten gets Code Red from Dutch Ministry BZK

~ Too much delay in the process, says BZK ~

THE HAGUE--The process of building Country St. Maarten is not progressing quickly enough. In the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK progress report State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten sent to the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber on Monday, St. Maarten is given Code Red. Code Red means the Ministry doesn't have much faith in the process being completed by October 10, 2010, the agreed date for dismantling the Netherlands Antilles.

According to BZK, St. Maarten has done a lot to build the organisation of the new country and to inform all involved about the progress of this aspect. "However, it is not likely that St. Maarten will be able to comply with all required conditions to function as a country on the transition date," it was stated in the progress report that covered the period June-September.

Implementation of legislation and plans relating to the government apparatus of Country St. Maarten is taking more time than anticipated. St. Maarten and Curaçao have not submitted a number of legislation proposals that have to be handled by the reviewing committee. The committee has decided not to meet until it has received all legislation proposals. This is resulting in a delay in the review process, which ultimately means a delay in the constitutional process for

Curaçao and St. Maarten.

The Migration Plan and Social Charter for Country St. Maarten are being completed, but an agreement on the Social Charter between St. Maarten and the Netherlands Antilles has not been concluded yet. This agreement should have been signed no later than January.

Federal civil servants on the islands should have received proposals about their future placement before April. Because there wasn't enough clarity on the legal positions of the civil servants, it was decided to delay this proposal until October. "This has consequences for the planning of transferring tasks to St. Maarten," it was stated in the progress report.

**Manpower**

The process of building a new organisation for Country St. Maarten and performing all tasks and responsibilities that St. Maarten has to execute in a new constitutional structure demands a lot of manpower. "Because in St. Maarten, unlike Curaçao, a lot still has to be built, it won't be easy to acquire sufficient people and to fill the positions to adequately execute all tasks. Many organisations have to be built from scratch."

St. Maarten and Curaçao should have provided an overview of the tasks they wanted to execute as new countries, either independently, in cooperation with, or by other islands or countries within the Kingdom. "An overview has

not yet been received from St. Maarten."

St. Maarten wants to work together with Curaçao. The islands are still in discussion on how to give content to this cooperation. But proposals have not been completed, noted BZK. "This results in a delay in the implementation phase, as defined in the Start Round Table Conference agreement of November 2005."

According to the Dutch Government, it is up to St. Maarten to take measures so it can comply with the set conditions. The Netherlands will stick to agreements made earlier in the constitutional process about reviewing and testing St. Maarten's government apparatus, and about proposals to be worked out during the implementation phase.

**Overview of tasks**

"St. Maarten will first have to present an overview regarding the future execution of tasks, before a review can take place, as specified in the Start Round Table Conference agreement of November 2005. The connection with dismantling the Netherlands Antilles is a point of interest," it was stated.

The Netherlands Antilles is running behind in planning where it comes to dismantling. At the same time, BZK concluded that a number of tasks for St. Maarten and the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba were not, or were insufficiently being executed. The Dutch

Government also sees the Parliamentary elections of January 22 as a risk, because it is not sure the new cabinet will proceed to conclude the decentralisation of the Central Government.

The phased transfer of federal tasks to St. Maarten and Curaçao has suffered great delay. The first tasks were to be transferred in July. This was delayed until October. Because this also proved impossible, the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao and St. Maarten have decided to start the transfer of tasks in January 2010. "It is important that the new countries do realistic planning for the takeover of tasks and for the conditions of the transfer of personnel and financial means."

**Civil servants**

The most important reason for the task transfer delay is the failure to clarify federal civil servants' legal positions. "The Netherlands Antilles has so far refused to sign the protocol that facilitates the transfer of federal civil servants working and living on the BES islands to the Netherlands."

The Dutch Government warned that if the Central Government kept refusing to sign the protocol to facilitate the transfer of federal civil servants to the Netherlands, the Netherlands would directly approach these civil servants working and living on the BES islands and ask them to submit information on their legal positions, so that they could receive proposals

to become employed as Kingdom civil servants for the BES islands.

The Dutch Ministry of Public Health, Wellbeing and Sports VWS is the first ministry to have taken over the tasks of the Netherlands Antilles for the BES islands. Other ministries are also preparing agreements to do so before the transition date October 10, 2010.

**Central Bank**

In the progress report, BZK further pointed out that the execution of the trajectory of setting up a joint Central Bank for Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten had not started yet. A choice of currency has not been made either.

The transition of the BES islands to the Netherlands as public entities is progressing well, but the political situation in Bonaire and the planned referendum on that island could have a negative effect on the pace of the constitutional process. The situation in Bonaire received a Code Red from BZK.

Other aspects of the BES islands' transition received a Code Green, meaning that the October 2010 deadline could be met.

The dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and the building of Country Curaçao were rated Code Yellow, meaning that there was a delay and that, possibly, the October 2010 deadline might not be realised. The support for the Lt. Governors and their cabinets were rated Code Green. □





**Deep down we all want to be desired**

As a Medical Anthropologist I am fascinated when I see a culture change or adopt a holiday. Here in Aruba as in most of Latin America, November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saint's Day when we visit the graves of departed family members. We clean the tombs, decorate the graves with flowers, pray and remember our departed loved ones.

The Mexican and Filipino celebration of the memory of their deceased ancestors called El Día de los Muertos, or The Day of the Dead also occurs on November 1 and November 2, and is coinciding with the similar Roman Catholic celebrations of All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Yet, we need to realize that "A rose by any other name is still a rose". All of these celebrations are reflections of rituals celebrating the lives of our ancestors. Our Mesoamerican ancestors have performed these rituals for at least 3,000 years; where it was common practice to enact rituals to symbolize death and rebirth.

We appreciate that some of us do not need much rationale to party, but the adoption of Halloween on the eve of All Saint's Day has many social critics denouncing the adoption as Americanization influences. Perhaps, but cultures do not adopt anything unless an emotional need is being satisfied.

Halloween observed on October 31, the eve of

# **Sexy Halloween,**

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

All Saints' Day is based on a medieval European concept of death, and is populated by demons, usually female witches and other images of terror. Our Indo-Hispanic custom of All Saint's Day or The Day of the Dead, in contrast, is distinctly different. Our celebration demonstrates strong sense of love and respect for one's ancestors; celebrates the continuance of life, family relationships, community solidarity; positive concepts! Then why has our culture so quickly embraced the ancient British and Irish Celtic festival of Samhain eve an occasion for one of the ancient fire festivals when huge bonfires were set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits?

Professionally, in our clinic I witness endless medical complaints rooted in emotional problems. The psychologist, Carl Jung stated that you have two overriding tasks in your life; in the first half of your life you need to become comfortable with your sexuality and in the second half of your life you need to accept your mortality. All human activity is explained as work being done in one of these categorizes. I explain the rapid adoption of Halloween by Latin Americans as an opportunity to symbolically overlay our dominant emotions, sex and death.

Besides the adoption,

we are also experiencing that increasingly Halloween is a holiday for adults. Adults now represent up to sixty five percent of Halloween costume sales, a noticeable shift compared with years past. Also, we are observing that the costumes selling the quickest are those that are sexy adult Halloween costumes and games.

Most adults love Halloween because it is a great excuse to let your imagination go wild. Deep down we all want to be desired, to be seen as sexy and attractive. All that dressing up, play-acting behind the costume mask is liberating for many. The mystery of the mask allows people to do things they normally wouldn't do, without having to worry about the consequences such as gossip, rejection or a tarnished reputation. If no one knows who the person behind the mask is, why would they care about what people think of their actions?

Unfortunately, one holiday a year does not provide all the opportunity to learn and for our soul to grow. The path to true health is a journey to understanding who we are. In balance or health the opposites live together in us in harmony. Our existence on earth is experienced as yin and yang, up and down, light and darkness, love and power, good and evil, masculine and feminine, and so

on.

In our souls exists all that we human beings have experienced over and over again since the very beginning of human existence on Earth, and this wisdom becomes visible through several expressions including dreams, art, myths and in many cases a physical illness. When people are ill, there is for them an opportunity to find out what is going on deep in their souls because, frequently, a physical illness is an expression of a wound in the soul.

All feelings, sensation, including pain and medical symptoms are expressions of energy. Energy in your body is either free flowing and balanced or blocked and painful. One of the most powerful tools of the Healing Spirit is acupuncture that uses mainly fine needles, to stimulate points on the body to relieve pain and associated emotional block. There is considerable medical evidence that acupuncture is effective against nausea, pain, psychological, respiratory and digestive problems.

Get The Point! I heard that in New York City the Museum of Sex is hosting a masquerade party that includes an exclusive after-hours tour of the museum. Partygoers will also enjoy an open bar, dancing, live entertainment and a deluxe gift bag. Masquerade guests are encouraged to dress up in sexy costume and masks will be available at the door for anyone in need. You might think it's a time where people put on



masks and dance the night away. You're right, but there is much more to Halloween than meets the eye. Are you looking for a more lasting way to help you soul grow away from pain? Call to make an appointment. LEARN MORE: Dr. Viana will present his seminar "Feel the Difference Naturally" at YMCA San Nicolaas Wed. Nov. 11 at 7pm. Language English.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

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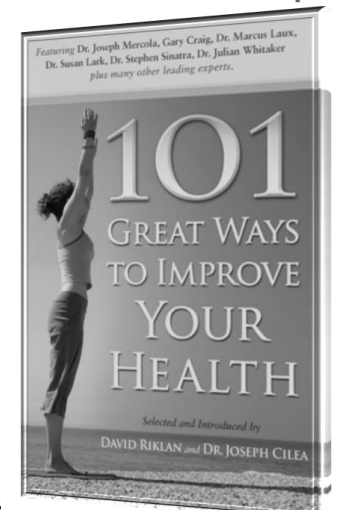
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# Stocks mostly slide on mixed data; IBM lifts Dow



Traders work in the Goldman Sachs booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, September 30, 2008.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

By **TIM PARADIS**,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks mostly fell Tuesday as mixed reports on home prices and consumer confidence give investors little incentive to step into the market.

A decision by IBM Corp. to double its stock-repurchase plan gave a boost to the Dow Jones industrials, but the Nasdaq composite index fell after Baidu Inc., the Chinese Internet search company, warned its revenue could take a hit as it switches its advertising system. Falling stocks outpaced those that rose.

Bond prices added to their gains after strong demand at a government debt auction.

Stocks began the day higher following a report that home prices in 20 major metropolitan markets rose for the third straight month in August. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index gained 1 percent in August from July.

Home prices fell 11.4 percent from a year earlier, which was a smaller drop than economists polled by Thomson Reuters predicted. The year-over-year slide has slowed since February, indicating the housing market is stabilizing.

That wasn't enough to offset new worries that consumers might not be in a mood to spend this

holiday season. The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index fell unexpectedly to 47.7 in October, its second-lowest reading since May. Analysts predicted a reading of 53.1.

"Consumer confidence is not great," said Stephen Carl, head of equity trading at The Williams Capital Group in New York. "Some of the housing numbers showed a little bit of an improvement but on the whole you've got a long way to go."

Worries about consumers have been around for a while, but they took some of the sheen off corporate profit reports for the July-September quarter which have been coming in ahead of expectations.

"When I look at the consumer, I think that is the next big test," said Dave Hinnenkamp, chief executive KDV Wealth Management in Minneapolis. "We've passed a big test on the earnings front."

In midafternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 32.12, or 0.3 percent, to 9,900.08. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.04, or 0.1 percent, to 1,065.91, while Nasdaq fell 21.05, or 1 percent, to 2,120.80.

Stocks have fallen in four of the past five days as investors look for catalysts that could extend the market's climb. The S&P 500 index is up 57.7 percent since March.

Bond prices rose after a Treasury Department auction of \$44 billion in two-year notes drew robust demand. That pushed yields lower. The yield on the two-year note rose fell to 0.95 percent from 1.04 percent late Monday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.48 percent from 3.56 percent late Monday.

Stocks have struggled in the past week as the dollar has been strengthening, which often pushes the prices of commodities lower. Commodities are traded in dollars, so a stronger dollar makes it more expensive for foreign investors to buy into the market.

The dollar rose again Tuesday but didn't steer the stock market as it had in recent days.

The Dow fell 104 points Monday after a drop of about the same size Friday. It was the first consecutive triple-digit loss for the Dow since mid-June. Fears of an overheated market have also been contributing to the slide in the week since major indexes hit their highest levels in more than a year. The market has been surging with little pause since March, and analysts have been saying for months that stocks are due for a consolidation. □



A home with a reduced price is for sale in Carmel, Ind. neighborhood, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

## Home prices rise in most major cities in August

By **J.W. ELPHINSTONE**,  
AP Real Estate Writer

NEW YORK – Home prices rose in August for the third straight month, setting a rapid pace of recovery that surprised economists and raised questions about how long the trend can last.

After a steep three-year descent, home prices rebounded this summer at an annualized pace of almost 7 percent, the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index showed Tuesday. The speed of the recovery even stumped Robert Shiller, economist and co-creator of the index.

"It's a time of exceptional uncertainty," Shiller said. "It doesn't seem like a time to see home prices booming, but that's what's happening."

He expects prices will continue to rise for the next few months, but can't forecast beyond that, explaining, "There's no way to be a statistician about this."

The Case-Shiller index of 20 major cities climbed 1 percent from July to a seasonally adjusted reading of 144.5. While prices were down 11.4 percent from August a year ago, the annual declines have slowed since February.

Rising home prices are a key ingredient to rebuilding the economy. Homeowners feel wealthier when their property appreciates in value and are more likely to spend money. Rising prices also help millions of homeowners who owe more to the bank than their homes are worth.

But many economists expect a double dip in prices. Despite signs the economy is recovering, home prices could decline again as unemployment and foreclosures rise and a tax credit for first-time homebuyers expires next month.

Zach Pandl, an economist at Nomura Global Economics, expects prices to fall to the lows reached earlier this year before recovering in early 2010.

"We need to see flat to rising prices in the winter months," Pandl said. "That would be a very encouraging sign that prices have bottomed out."

While prices are still down about 30 percent from the peak in 2006, the rebound appears widespread. Prices rose month-over-month in 15 metro areas since June, with San Francisco, Minneapolis and San Diego leading the way. □



# Joke's on Bill Cosby as Seinfeld, Rock pay tribute

By BRETT ZONGKER,  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Someone had to hold Bill Cosby back to keep him from crawling over a balcony and joining fellow comedians on stage as the stars lined up to pay tribute to his life's work.

When the lights went out for the start of the 12th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, Cosby filled the dark silence Monday night. "Hellooo?" he called out at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. And again, he had his audience laughing.

Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld saluted their fellow funny man with the nation's top comedy prize, along with two co-stars from "The Cosby Show," Phylicia Rashad and Malcolm-Jamal Warner. They hailed Cosby's work breaking down racial barriers and stereotypes and replayed his standup routines.

Cosby quipped that usually when a man sees his life flash before his eyes, it's for a bad reason. "But this is all right," he said.

First lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, Vice President Joe Biden's wife, were among those in Washington watching clips from Cosby's long career

— from his classic standup routine of Noah's chat with God about building an ark to dealing with the stresses of raising a family as a TV dad. Seinfeld and Rock shared the stage and said that as children they followed Cosby's comedy albums, which inspired their own careers. Then they got lost in banter about how they could never measure up, after seeing Cosby together more recently at New York's Apollo Theater.

"What was he wearing?" Rock said.

"Something ridiculous," Seinfeld quipped. "But he did two hours — all new material."

"I'm not that funny," Rock said.

"I'm definitely not that funny," Seinfeld said.

Instead, Seinfeld and Rock tossed to a clip of Cosby's classic impression of a visit to the dentist.

"The first thing he grabs is an iron hook," Cosby says. "Then he starts to drill and you see and smell smoke coming out of your mouth!"

As the clip ended, Cosby turned to his wife, Camille, who smiled and clapped. Cosby later said comedians' wives often want autopsies of their husbands' brains to see

what's going on in there.

Comedian Dick Gregory chimed in with jokes about his long friendship with Cosby.

"When the stock market crashed last September, they was going to repossess my Rolls-Royce," Gregory said. "I said, 'Bill, what do I do?'" Cosby's response, according to Gregory: "Don't park in front of the house!"

Critics often point out that "The Cosby Show," which aired in the 1980s, broke new ground because it was about a successful black family with a father who's a doctor and a mother, a lawyer, raising five children.

Gregory said Cosby started breaking barriers even earlier with the "I Spy" TV series, which cast a black man and a white man as co-stars. After that, Gregory said, promoters never again referred to him as a "Negro comic."

"A billion years from now, you will be respected for what you were able to do," he said, looking up at Cosby who was seated in a balcony. "You painted words with your mouth, and they will always exist, and they will always last."

Of all his accomplishments as a comedian, actor, author and television producer, Cosby



Comedian Bill Cosby, right, is congratulated by his TV co-stars from 'The Cosby Show,' Malcolm-Jamal Warner, left, and Phylicia Rashad, after receiving the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in Washington, Monday, Oct. 26, 2009.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

said he is most proud of the "Cosby Show," which he carefully crafted.

Rashad, who played Claire Huxtable on the series, flew from London, where she is in rehearsal for "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," to be part of the show at Cosby's request.

On stage, she recalled the chemistry she and Cosby shared as TV parents.

"We could complete each other's sentences," she said.

Warner, who played Theo on the show, said he has been in touch with his TV dad ever since. Now, he said he is far enough removed to watch himself in reruns and said the show is a testament to Cosby's genius.

"He always said in 20 years he wanted the show to still be relevant, and here we are," Warner said.

Cosby, 72, has won other

major awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002. Still, the Mark Twain Prize is special, he said, because Twain was the "quintessential American writer — because he held his language and his love for words in perfect American form."

Cosby apologized to a bust of Twain during his acceptance speech for bumping him and stealing some of his words.

The tribute will air Nov. 4 nationwide on PBS. Cosby insisted the performances be free of profanity and the show reflect his emphasis on education.

"The show is very, very important to me," Cosby said in an interview. "It makes me aware that as a monologist and a writer and a performer, I've done some wonderful work." □

## Microsoft exits as sponsor of 'Family Guy' special

By FRAZIER MOORE,  
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Fans of "Family Guy" are chortling about Microsoft's belated discovery that a "Family Guy" special might not jibe with the software giant's corporate image.

On Monday, Microsoft said it's pulling out as sponsor of a "Family Guy" variety show, just two weeks after announcing its sole sponsorship of the special, "Family Guy Presents: Seth & Alex's Almost Live Comedy Show," scheduled to air Nov. 8.

The Fox special apparently follows in the racy tradition of the animated "Family Guy" series — just as any fan would expect.

The special includes "typical 'Family Guy'-style jokes, including riffs on deaf people, the Holocaust, feminine hygiene and incest," said Variety, which first reported Microsoft's exit.

The special stars "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane, who voices many of the characters, and Alex Borstein, who furnishes the voice of Peter Griffin's wife, Lois.

In the original announcement, the half-hour special was billed as a half-hour with no commercial breaks that blends "unique Windows 7-branded programming" seamlessly with "original animation, live-action performances of 'Family Guy's' most memorable musical numbers, comedy sketches and surprise



FILE - In this May 18, 2009 file photo, Seth Macfarlane, creator of the animated series, 'Family Guy,' attends the 2009 Fox upfront after party in New York.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer, file)

celebrity guests."

Microsoft had originally touted the "subversive and unique humor" of the show's co-hosts. □

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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

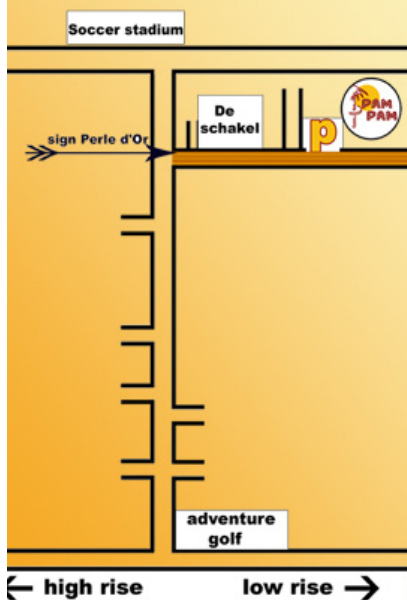
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## U.S. swine flu vaccine outlook improving, CDC says

MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — More than 22 million doses of swine flu vaccine are available in the United States now, and most Americans should soon find it easier to get their dose, U.S. health officials said Tuesday. “We’re beginning to get to significant increases in the availability,” said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at a briefing. Last week there were just 14 million doses on hand, despite predictions that as many as 120 million doses would be ready by mid-October. The slow supply trickle has frustrated Americans, who have stood in line for hours in some parts of the country. The shortage has

probably increased demand, Frieden said.

“It’s quite likely that that too little vaccine is one of the things that’s making people more interested in getting vaccinated, frankly. When we have shortages, we see an increase in demand,” he said. The vaccine is grown in eggs in a reliable but slow process, and smaller amounts of it were being produced per egg than expected. There were other snags, too, but health officials say manufacturers have overcome most of those and are making the vaccine more speedily.

The government has ordered 225 million doses.

CDC officials estimate that the swine flu virus, first identified in April, has killed at least



In this Aug. 11, 2009, file photo, a dose of the experimental vaccine for the Swine flu virus is prepared at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. Swine flu vaccinations begin the first week of October 2009 after months of preparations and promises.

Associated Press

1,000 Americans and caused at least mild illness in many millions of others. □

## Review finds 9/11 Potomac exercise was ill-advised

By EILEEN SULLIVAN  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Holding a training exercise near the Pentagon on Sept. 11 this year was ill-advised, but it did not violate Coast Guard policies, an internal review found.

The Coast Guard review, obtained by The Associated Press, looked into the events and actions that led to false news reports of gunshots on the Potomac River on the anniversary of the 2001 terror attacks. The chain of false reports on television and online raised fears in the capital that Washington might be under attack eight years to the day after a hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon and two others slammed into New York’s World Trade Center towers.

CNN reported 10 shots had been fired on a suspicious vessel, based on information it heard over the network’s police scanner, used to monitor law enforcement radio traffic.

Continued on Next Page



In this Sept. 11, 2009 file photo, the Jefferson Memorial is seen in the background, as a U.S. Coast Guard boat is seen on the Potomac River in Washington. Holding a training exercise near the Pentagon on Sept. 11 this year was ill-advised, but it did not violate Coast Guard policies, an internal review found.

Associated Press

## October deadliest month for U.S. in Afghan war



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, fire mortars at known enemy firing positions from a base in the Pech River Valley in Afghanistan’s Kunar province, Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009. From left to right are SPC William Makenzie of Pendleton, OR and SPC Benjamin Pervis of Rochester, MN.

Associated Press

HEIDI VOGT  
TODD PITMAN

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — Roadside bombs — the biggest killer of U.S. soldiers — claimed eight more American lives Tuesday, driving the U.S. death toll to a record level for the third time in four months as President Barack Obama nears a decision on a new strategy for the troubled war.

Continued on Page B6

### Star power:



New York Yankees celebrate after winning Game 6 of the American League Championship baseball series Monday, Oct. 26, 2009, in New York. The Yankees defeated the Los Angeles Angels 5-2 to win the American League Championship.

Associated Press

## .Phillies, Yankees set for World Series

Read Page B10



# Obama putting \$3.4B toward a 'smart' power grid

By CHARLES BABINGTON  
Associated Press Writer

ARCADIA, Fla. — President Barack Obama made a pitch for renewable energy Tuesday, announcing \$3.4 billion in government support for 100 projects aimed at modernizing the nation's power grid.

Touring a field of solar energy panels in west-central Florida, the president urged greater use of several technologies to make America's power transmission system more efficient and better suited to the digital age.

The projects include installing "smart" electric meters in homes, automating utility substations, and installing thousands of new digital transformers and grid sensors.

"There's something big happening in America in terms of creating a clean-energy economy," Obama said, although he added there is much more to be done.

He likened the effort to the ambitious development of the national highway system 50 years ago. He said modernization would lead to a "smarter, stronger and more secure electric grid."

Under muggy skies, Obama toured the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center, which is designed to generate enough energy for about 3,000 residential customers of the utility FPL. It is the nation's largest photovoltaic electricity facility.



President Barack Obama speaks during his tour of the DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center in Arcadia, Fla., Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009.

Obama said a modern grid could give consumers better control over their electricity usage and costs, and spur development of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

The \$3.4 billion in grants from the government's January economic stimulus program will be matched by \$4.7 billion in private investments. The smallest grant will be \$400,000 and the largest \$200 million.

"We have a very antiquated (electric grid) system in our country," Carol Browner, assistant to the president for energy and climate change, told reporters. "The current system is outdated, it's dilapidated."

Matt Rogers, the Energy

Department official involved in the program, said the 100 projects were selected from 400 proposed.

Associated Press



Fox News also reported the shots, which were said to be on the section of river nearest to the Pentagon where President Barack Obama was attending a 9/11 anniversary.

As a result, FBI agents rushed to the scene; the Coast Guard ordered one of its helicopters based at Reagan National

Airport to fly over the river to investigate the reports of shots, and the FAA grounded 17 flights departing from the airport, which is located on the Potomac.

The training exercise was considered routine, consisted of seven separate drills and involved speeding boats. Instead of actually firing any shots, one of the exercise participants said "bang, bang, bang" over the radio when shots would have been fired if a real event. The TV networks noticed the activity and confused the simulated chatter for actual events.

The Coast Guard unit that conducted the training exercise was not aware that the president would be traveling to and from a memorial service nearby, Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic area, determined in his review of the incident. If the unit had known about the president's specific travel plans, it would have rescheduled the time and

The money will be distributed over the next two months and the work is expected to be done over the next one to three years, he said.

Even as Obama pitched more efficient and renewable energy use, his trip to Arcadia made it clear that old habits and dependencies die hard. He arrived in a motorcade of gas-guzzling SUVs. While waiting for the motorcade to get started, several vans kept their engines running to provide air conditioning for occupants escaping a hot Florida sun.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which has been at odds with Obama over health care, energy and other matters, praised the clean-energy initiative. □

## POTOMAC

Continued from Page B1

date of the exercise, the report said.

Papp found that the commander of the Coast Guard unit, known as Station Washington, "considered the significance of 9/11 before approving response readiness training on that date and determined it was an opportunity to pay respect to those tragically lost."

While Papp determined that the unit "followed standard police and practices" during its exercise on Sept. 11, he found "the decision to conduct training on that morning in the selected training area was ill-advised."

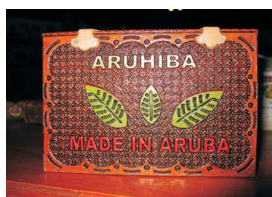
Papp added that it was also ill-advised to continue the training after the Coast Guard had received inquiries about possible gunshots. The unit instead made an onsite decision to complete the final two of its seven training scenarios. The exercise was originally scheduled for Sept. 4, but it was postponed several times for reasons such as crew shortages and a short notice request for security support during one of the president's trips within the Washington region. On Sept. 11, the Coast Guard unit was not asked to provide security support for any of the memorial events that day. □

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# Census: 'Brain gains' for high-tech cities

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Many college graduates are passing up industrial centers and former hotspots in the Southwest, which have been hit hard by the recession, in favor of life in urban, high-tech meccas. Their moves are fueling a resurgence of brainiacs in parts of California, North Carolina and Texas.

Census data released Tuesday offer the first detailed look at U.S. migration data, broken down by education and income, since the recession began in late 2007.

The data covering 2006-2008 show that Austin, Texas,

Portland, Ore., Charlotte and Raleigh, both in North Carolina, and Seattle saw large jumps in residents with at least a college degree. Each offers the promise of specialized tech jobs and hip lifestyles.

San Francisco, with its burgeoning biotech industry, and Houston, home to NASA and several medical centers, saw significant increases in residents with advanced-level graduate degrees. In contrast, metropolitan areas with high rates of foreclosures, less tech-based economies or increasing unemployment saw declines or slower rates of growth in residents with a college degree or higher. They included Los

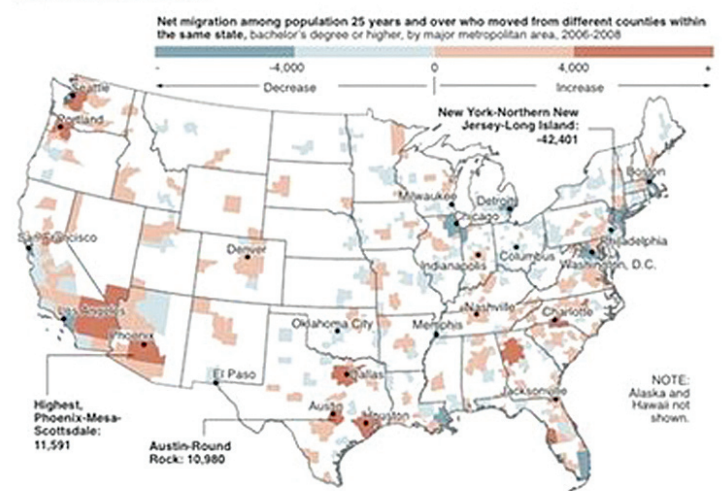
Angeles, Atlanta, Orlando, Fla., as well as New Orleans, Detroit and Cleveland.

"During this economic downturn, young, educated professionals are heading for the high-tech 'cool' metros rather than the fast growing upstarts of the mid-decade," said William Frey, a demographer at Brookings Institution, who analyzed the data. "The investment in knowledge industries and young professional amenities in places like Austin, Raleigh and Seattle is now paying off."

The United States is becoming increasingly educated. More than one in four U.S. residents now has a college degree,

## Phoenix has largest movement among college degreeed

From 2006-2008, more than 11,000 people migrated to the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metro area from other counties within Arizona.



SOURCE: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

AP

**Net migration among population 25 years and over who moved from different counties within the same state, bachelor's degree or higher, by major metropolitan area, 2006-2008.**

Associated Press



The Minneapolis skyline rises through the rain as an arriving Northwest Airlines jet taxis at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Friday, Oct. 23, 2009. Investigators are looking into a Northwest flight bound for Minneapolis from San Diego which over flew the airport by 150 miles.

Associated Press

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The Federal Aviation Administration revoked the licenses Tuesday of two airline pilots who flew their Airbus 320 jetliner past their destination by 150 miles.

The Northwest Airlines pilots — Timothy Cheney, of Washington state, the captain; and Richard Cole, Oregon, the first officer — told safety investigators they were working on their personal laptop computers and lost track of time and place.

The pilots, who were out of communications with air traffic controllers for more than an hour, violated numerous federal safety regulations in the incident Wednesday night, the FAA said in a statement. The violations included failing to

comply with air traffic control instructions and clearances and operating carelessly and recklessly, the agency said.

The pilots said they were brought back to awareness when a flight attendant contacted them on the aircraft's intercom. By then, they were over Wisconsin at 37,000 feet, far past the airport at Minneapolis, Minnesota, their original destination. They turned around the Airbus, with its 144 passengers, and landed safely in Minneapolis.

The revocations are effective immediately, FAA said. The pilots have 10 days to appeal the emergency revocations to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The pilots' union at Delta Air Lines, which acquired Northwest last year, had cautioned against a rush to

## FAA revokes licenses of errant Northwest pilots

judgment. The pilots told investigators who interviewed them on Sunday that they had no previous accidents or safety incidents.

The union had no immediate comment Tuesday.

Delta spokesman Anthony Black said in a statement: "The pilots in command of Northwest Flight 188 remain suspended until the conclusion of the investigations into this incident."

The NTSB has not taken or examined the laptops that the pilots were using, spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said Tuesday.

"The pilots said they were using them. So I don't know what any examination of them" would do to further the investigation, Lopatkiewicz said.

The pilots failed to respond to numerous radio messages from controllers in Denver, Colorado, and Minneapolis. Other pilots also tried to raise the Northwest pilots, and their airline's dispatchers sent text messages by radio.

Cole and Cheney said they both had their laptops out while the first officer, who had more experience with scheduling, instructed the captain on monthly flight crew scheduling. They said they were not listening to the radio

or watching cockpit flight displays during that period. The plane's radio also was still tuned to the frequency used by Denver controllers after the San Diego-to-Minneapolis flight had flown beyond Denver's reach.

Only a month ago, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood held a meeting in Washington on distracted driving, bringing together researchers, regulators and safety advocates in response to vehicle and train accidents involving texting and cell phone use.

Pilots and aviation safety experts said the episode is likely to cause the NTSB and the FAA to take a hard look at the use of laptops and other personal electronic devices in the cockpit.

No federal rules exist that specifically ban pilots' use of laptops or other personal electronic devices as long as the plane is flying above 10,000 feet, said Diane Spitaliere, an FAA spokeswoman.

Delta said in a statement that using laptops or engaging in activity unrelated to the pilots' command of the aircraft during flight is strictly against the airline's flight deck policies. The airline said violations of that policy will result in termination. □

with many recent graduates looking for jobs in a depressed economy. States and cities are also striving to boost their tax bases and stay competitive by attracting highly educated and higher income residents.

According to the data, cities with higher levels of education did not always translate to the highest incomes.

Austin, Seattle and Charlotte all saw large gains in the number of residents who earned an income of \$65,000 a year or more. But they were outpaced by places such as Bakersfield, Calif., and Sun Belt regions such as Phoenix and Las Vegas, which had larger jumps in richer residents.

Frey attributed the differences to younger college graduates in the high-tech areas who are moving up the career ladder and have not yet reached their peak levels of income.

Among other findings:

— The top five metro areas with the largest gains in residents earning \$65,000 and more were Phoenix, Riverside, Calif., Dallas, Las Vegas and Houston.

— Median home values ranged from \$68,200 in Odessa, Texas, to \$739,700 in San Jose, Calif., the only metro area with a median home value above \$700,000. Six other areas, all in California, have median home values in excess of \$600,000: Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Salinas, Napa, Santa Barbara and Oxnard. □



# Dem moderates challenge Reid on health care plan



Senate Minority Whip Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz. listens at right as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., speaks, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009.

By DAVID ESPO,  
AP Special Correspondent  
WASHINGTON—Democratic moderates who control the balance of power on health care legislation balked Tuesday at a government-run insurance option for millions of Americans, underscoring the enormity of the challenge confronting Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid one day after he unveiled the plan as a consensus product. Republican opposition stiffened, and party leaders announced they would attempt

*Associated Press*  
to strangle the bill before formal debate begins. Despite the obvious obstacles, senior Democrats cast Reid's draft legislation as a turning point in the yearlong campaign to enact President Barack Obama's top domestic priority. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said there is now a "sense of inevitability, the sense that, yes, we're going to pass health care reform, and it's going to lower costs, provide better health insurance coverage and

cover — and reform the health insurance market."

The proposed government insurance option long ago emerged as the biggest flashpoint in both the House and Senate as Democrats struggle to pass legislation that extends coverage to millions who lack it, ban insurance industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions and slow the growth of health care spending nationally.

But before that issue can be joined on the Senate floor, Reid's first challenge is to gain 60 votes — the number needed to overcome a filibuster by Republicans — just to bring the bill up, a parliamentary maneuver so routine that a vote is rarely required.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, announced that in this case, members of his party will treat it as though it were "a vote on the merits" of a bill he said would "cut Medicare, raise taxes and increase health insurance premiums." He suggested Democrats could

expect campaign commercials next year on the basis of the vote, and recalled that Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., was ridiculed in his 2004 presidential campaign for having once said he voted for a bill before he voted against it. Tuesday's developments illustrated the difficulties facing the 69-year-old Reid, juggling at least three separate concerns: his role as head of the Democratic caucus, the desire to deliver on Obama's agenda and a 2010 re-election campaign in Nevada, where the his approval ratings are low. "This isn't over until I'm standing with President Obama and he's signing a bill into law that delivers what Nevadans are demanding — real health insurance reform," Reid wrote in an e-mail message to political supporters in his home state Monday night.

The decision to include a government insurance option in his legislation had obvious appeal for liberals who account for a strong majority inside the Senate Democratic caucus, and it is likely to please labor unions and party

activists in Nevada.

But it has gained less-than-effusive support from the Obama, who is eager to have at least a dollop of bipartisanship for his signature domestic issue. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, the only Republican who has sided with Democrats in committee this year, has announced she will not support the bill Reid drafted. Still, if Reid is pressed in coming weeks by moderates to fall back, he can explain to liberals that he was forced to do so because his preference — a government insurance option — proved to be unobtainable in the Senate. Already, that pressure is evident.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., said he may seek changes on the Senate floor, a move likely to be welcomed by moderates. He backs a government role in states where one or two insurers control the market and premiums are high, along the same lines as a plan supported by Snowe. Additionally, Carper has talked of allowing other states to invite the federal government in — the reverse of Reid's plan, in which states would have to opt out.

That general approach, in which a lack of competition in an individual's state would trigger a government insurance option, "is still alive," said Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

While Reid is expected eventually to secure all 60 Democratic votes on the critical first test to bring the bill to the Senate floor, Sens. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Evan Bayh of Indiana and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas all declined to say on Tuesday how they would vote.

In an indication of the pressure Reid faces, Bayh said the majority leader had agreed to cut an earlier proposal for a \$40 billion tax on medical device makers.

"He significantly modified that proposal in a way that I understand will not impact thousands of good-paying jobs," said Bayh, whose state is home to Guidant Corp., a maker of cardiovascular devices, among other major industry players. □

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# Feds: Chicago men planned to attack Danish newspaper

MIKE ROBINSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Two Chicago men who were schoolmates in Pakistan plotted terrorist attacks against a Danish newspaper that triggered widespread protests by printing cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, federal prosecutors said Tuesday in announcing charges against the men.

David Coleman Headley, 49, took trips to Denmark in January and July to conduct surveillance on possible targets, including the Copenhagen and Aarhus offices of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper, prosecutors said in criminal complaints filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago. Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 48, helped arrange Headley's travel, prosecutors said.

Danish authorities said there could be more arrests.

According to U.S. prosecutors, Headley told FBI agents after his Oct. 3 arrest at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport that the initial plan called for attacks on the newspaper's offices, but that he later proposed just killing the paper's former cultural editor and the cartoonist behind the drawings, which triggered outrage throughout the Muslim world. He described his plans to contacts in Pakistan as "the Mickey Mouse project," according to the FBI.

The newspaper published twelve cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in 2005. One cartoon showed Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban. Any depiction of the prophet, even a favorable one, is frowned on by Islamic law as likely to lead to idolatry. Headley, a U.S. citizen who changed his name from Daood Gilani in 2006, is charged with conspiracy to commit terrorist acts involving murder and maiming outside the United States. He could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted. He was arrested as he boarded a flight to Philadelphia, the first leg of a trip to Pakistan.

Headley and Rana are each charged with conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorism conspiracy, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. Rana was arrested Oct. 18 in his home. Headley's attorney, John Theis, said he would have no comment. Rana's attorney, Patrick Blegen, said that his client "is a well respected businessman in the Chicagoland community."

"He adamantly denies the charges and eagerly awaits his opportunity to contest them in court and to clear his and his family's name," Blegen said. "We would ask that the community respect the fact that these are merely allegations and not proof."

Nobody answered a knock at

the door at Rana's Chicago on Tuesday. A phone listing for Headley could not be found.

Residents of his North Side neighborhood, which is home to a large South Asian community and where Rana reportedly ran a grocery store and an immigration services office, reacted to news of his arrest with shock.

"He's a really nice guy," said Jalal Tariq, a 23-year-old waiter who said Rana was helping him with an immigration case.

Rana was scheduled to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nan Nolan for a bond hearing Wednesday. Headley's bond hearing is set for Dec. 4 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Arlander Keys. Both men are being held in custody.

Jakob Scharf, the head of the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, or PET, called the alleged plot "serious" but said investigators didn't believe an attack was imminent. He said the alleged plotters considered various options,



A view of the offices of Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten in Aarhus, Denmark, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009. Two Chicago men are charged with plotting terrorist attacks against overseas targets, including at the Danish newspaper that sparked outrage throughout the Muslim by publishing cartoons by Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard, depicting the prophet Mohammed in 2005, prosecutors announced Tuesday. David Coleman Headley, 49, and Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 48, were charged in separate complaints filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

Associated Press

including using handguns and explosives, and that investigators seized footage of sites around Denmark ranging from the newspaper's offices to Copenhagen's main train station. "We cannot exclude that there could be more arrests" in Denmark or other countries, Scharf said at a Tuesday news conference.

U.S. prosecutors said Headley was carrying a data stick in his luggage that contained surveillance video footage of sites in Denmark. They

said Headley reported and attempted to report on his efforts to individuals with ties to terrorism overseas, including at least one with links to al-Qaida.

Headley and Rana attended school together in Pakistan, the FBI said in court papers. Headley posted a message on an Internet discussion site in October 2008 saying he resented the Danish cartoons and adding: "I feel disposed toward violence for the offending parties." □

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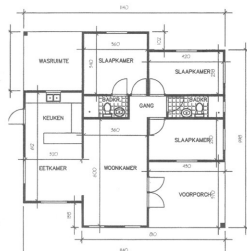


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AFGHAN WAR

Continued from Page B1

The homemade bombs, also called improvised explosive devices or IEDs, are responsible for between 70 percent and 80 percent of the casualties among U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan and have become a weapon of “strategic influence,” said Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz in Washington. The attacks Tuesday followed one of the deadliest days for the U.S. military operation in Afghanistan — grim milestones likely to fuel the debate in the United States over whether the conflict is worth the sacrifice. Obama has nearly finished gathering information on whether to send tens of thousands more American forces to quell the deepening insurgency, White House press

secretary Robert Gibbs said. A meeting Friday with the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be among the last events in the decision-making process, Gibbs said. Both attacks Tuesday took place in the southern province of Kandahar, said Capt. Adam Weece, a spokesman for American forces in the south. The region bordering the Pakistan frontier has long been an insurgent stronghold and was the birthplace of the Taliban in the 1990s. The Americans were patrolling in armored vehicles when a bomb ripped through one of them, killing seven service members and an Afghan civilian, U.S. forces spokesman Lt. Col. Todd Vician said. The eighth American died in a separate bombing elsewhere in the south, also while patrolling

in a military vehicle, Vician said. The number of effective IED attacks in Afghanistan has grown from 19 in September 2007 to 106 last month. “It’s a weapon system that the enemy has figured out has strategic impact,” said Metz, who leads the U.S. military organization tasked with defeating improvised explosive devices. “It really hampers our ability to execute a counterinsurgency doctrine. And it’s a weapon system that has to be fought, and I don’t think we can back off or shy away from fighting it.” Nine coalition forces were killed and 37 were wounded by IEDs in Afghanistan in September 2007. In September 2009, 37 coalition forces were killed and 285 were wounded by IEDs, according to the figures.

Several other Americans were wounded in the Tuesday blasts. The military said the deaths occurred during “multiple, complex” bomb strikes, but gave no details. “Complex” attacks usually refer to simultaneous assaults from multiple sides with various weapons — including bombs, machine guns and grenades or rockets. In Washington, a U.S. defense official said at least one of the attacks was followed by an intense firefight with insurgents after an initial bomb went off. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to release the information. The casualties bring to 55 the total number of Americans killed in October in



An Afghan protester, right, holds a burning effigy of U.S. President Barack Obama, as others shout anti- U.S. slogans at a demonstration in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009. Hundreds of Afghans shouted anti-US slogans and burned effigy of Obama during a protest against the alleged desecration of Holy Quran by U.S. soldiers during an operation in central Maidan Wardak province few days ago.

Associated Press

Afghanistan. The next highest toll was in August, when 51 U.S. soldiers died and the troubled nation held the first round of its presidential election amid a wave of violence. By comparison, the deadliest month of the Iraq conflict for U.S. forces was November 2004, when 137 Americans died during a major assault to clear insurgents from the city of Fallujah. “A loss like this is extremely difficult for the families as well as for those who served

alongside these brave service members,” said Navy Capt. Jane Campbell, a military spokeswoman. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends who mourn their loss.” The deaths came one day after 11 American soldiers were killed in separate helicopter crashes, marking the biggest loss of American life on a single day in four years. One chopper went down in western Afghanistan as it left the scene of a gunbattle with insurgents. □

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<b>NEW</b>		matinee: 12:00 2:00	late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE PRIVATE LIVE OF PIPPA LEE</b>	daily: 6:45 9:00		<b>NEW</b>
		matinee:	late show: 11:15	
<b>PG</b>	<b>HET GEHEIM VAN MEGA MINDY</b>	daily: 3:30 5:15 7:15 9:15		<b>NEW</b>
		matinee: 12:00 1:45	late show: 11:00	
<b>PG</b>	<b>FAME</b>	daily: 5:00 7:15 9:30		
		matinee: 12:30 2:45	late show: 11:45	
<b>R</b>	<b>FINAL DESTINATION 4</b>	daily:	8:00 10:00	
		matinee:	late show: 12:00	
<b>R</b>	<b>SORORITY ROW</b>	daily: 4:15 6:30 8:45		
		matinee: 1:45	late show: 11:00	
<b>PG</b>	<b>SUSKE &amp; WISKE</b>	daily: 4:30		
		matinee: 12:15 2:30	late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE STEPFATHER</b>	daily: 6:15 8:30		
		matinee: 1:15 3:45	late show: 11:00	

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<b>PG-13</b>	<b>COUPLES RETREAT</b>	daily: 5:00 7:30 9:45		<b>NEW</b>
		matinee: 12:00 2:30	late show: 12:00	
<b>R</b>	<b>LAW ABIDING CITIZEN</b>	daily: 6:00 8:45		<b>NEW</b>
		matinee: 12:30 3:15	late show: 11:30	
<b>PG</b>	<b>TOY STORY 2 3D</b>	daily: 4:15 6:15		
<b>NEW</b>		matinee: 12:15 2:15	late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>FINAL DESTINATION 4</b>	daily: 8:15 10:15		
		matinee:	late show: 12:15	
<b>R</b>	<b>ZOMBIELAND</b>	daily: 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00		
		matinee: 12:00 2:00	late show: 12:00	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>SURROGATE</b>	daily: 4:15 6:30 8:45		
		matinee: 1:45	late show: 11:15	
<b>R</b>	<b>THE STEPFATHER</b>	daily: 6:00 8:30		
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# Japanese destroyer collides with South Korean ship

**MARI YAMAGUCHI**  
Associated Press Writer  
TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese navy destroyer and a South Korean container ship collided Tuesday off southern Japan, sparking fires on both ships and injuring three crew members, officials said.

The ships collided under a bridge linking the Japanese main islands of Kyushu and Honshu in the narrow Kanmon Strait, Japan Coast Guard spokesman Seishi Izumi said.

One crew member on the destroyer JS Kurama was slightly injured with scratches and bruises while two others were suffering from smoke inhalation, a Defense Ministry spokesman said on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

None of the South Korean ship's 16 crew members — 12 from South Korea and four from Myanmar — was injured, Izumi said.

The fire on the 7,400-ton container ship Carina Star was extinguished shortly after the collision. The blaze on the destroyer was mostly under control late Tuesday but its temperature was still extremely high, the defense official said.

Officials are investigating the case as possible professional negligence and have begun questioning crew members on both ships, Izumi said.

The defense official said the Japanese ship's bow was badly burned and mangled, but the vessel was still capable of traveling on its own. The container ship's hull was grazed near its bow. TV footage showed orange flames shooting from the vessels in the dark.

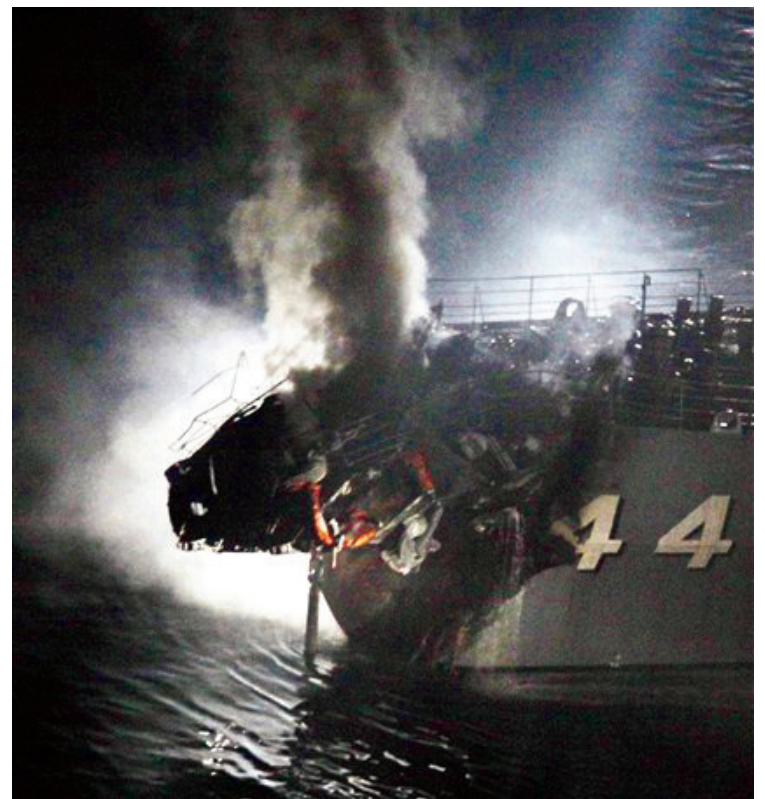
Izumi said the fire apparently broke out as a result of the impact of the collision, with paint inside a storage room on the destroyer catching fire.

The accident occurred under the Kanmon Bridge connecting Kyushu and the western end of Honshu — the narrowest part of the strait — about 530 miles southwest of Tokyo, Izumi said.

All sea traffic in the strait was suspended for about four hours after the accident.

The Kurama, carrying 360 sailors, was on its way to its home port of Sasebo on Kyushu after serving as the flagship for the country's triennial fleet review Sunday at the port of Yokosuka. The container ship had left the South Korean port of Busan and was headed to Osaka in western Japan.

Last year, a collision between a destroyer and a tuna trawler off the coast of Chiba, near Tokyo, left two fishermen dead. That accident triggered an uproar in Japan, where many people harbor pacifist sentiments and remain sensitive to anything related



Smoke billows from the bow of Japanese navy destroyer JS Kurama after it collided with a commercial vessel in Kanmon strait, off southern Japan, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009.

to the military.

Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa quickly held a news conference to express regret.

*Associated Press*

"We deeply apologize to the people for causing concerns," he said. "We will quickly find out what caused the accident." □



# Iran backs uranium plan outline, but seeks changes



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, left, welcomes Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for a meeting at the presidency in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009. Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Tehran late on Monday. Erdogan and his 200-member delegation were expected to discuss a wide range of various bilateral, regional and international issues during his two-day visit, including Iran's nuclear activities.

**BRIAN MURPHY  
NASSER KARIMI**

Associated Press Writers

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran accepted the general framework of a U.N.-draft nuclear deal Tuesday, but said it would seek “important changes” that could test the willingness of world powers to make concessions in exchange for a pact to rein in Tehran's ability to make atomic warheads.

It was unclear how far Iran would push for those changes. Already, Iran has raised a

potential roadblock: It wants a step-by-step approach to send low-enriched uranium stockpile out of the country rather than the big single shipment called for under U.N. provisions. Western powers say it's critical for Iran to send out at least 70 percent of its uranium store in one load to eliminate — at least temporarily — its options to make a nuclear weapon. A significantly lower amount or gradual shipments by Iran could jeopardize a key part of the proposal, which

*Associated Press*

was reached after talks last week that included the United States.

For the moment, Iran has signaled that it agrees to the plan's basic premise: sending its low-enriched uranium to Russia for further processing. The announcement on state media marked a major step for Iran, which has been reluctant to give up full control of the nuclear enrichment cycle.

Tehran still may be a long way from finalizing a deal. Western leaders were anticipating additional caveats by the Islamic republic, which is conducting its negotiations in public with a trickle of hints and statements on state-run media.

Iran's state-run Arabic-language channel Al-Alam cited an unidentified official as saying Iran will officially reply on the deal within 48 hours — or Thursday in Tehran. Other reports said it could Friday.

Iran “will agree to the general framework” of the plan “with a request for important changes,” the official said.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner expressed exasperation, saying Tehran is trying to have the proposal “thoroughly reworked.”

“It cannot take forever. We wait for answers,” he said in Luxembourg.

The plan was formalized by the United Nations last week after talks between Iran and the United States, Russia and France. It calls for Iran to

ship 70 percent of its enriched uranium abroad for further enrichment. The U.S. and its allies back the deal because it would at least temporarily leave Iran's uranium stockpiles too low to build a nuclear weapon. Iran denies any intention to develop a bomb. Another Iranian state channel, Press TV, said that Tehran is opposed to sending the entire shipment abroad at once, suggesting it wants to do it in stages.

The head of Iran's Foreign Policy and National Security Commission, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, was quoted by Iran's semiofficial ILNA news agency as sketching out a scenario in which Iran would send out portions of its low-enriched uranium stockpiles only after it receives a batch of reactor-ready rods.

Iran has also given hints that it may want to send less than 70 percent of its stockpiles abroad. On Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Iran might agree to “deliver part of (the low-enriched uranium) fuel which we currently don't need.”

A French diplomat said he expects Iran will seek to dramatically reduce the amount of uranium it would ship out of the country. The diplomat in Paris spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, who is also negotiating with the Iranians, said: “The deal was a good deal, and I don't think it requires fundamental changes.”

In the enrichment process, uranium purified to a low level — 5 percent or below — is used as fuel for a nuclear reactor, and to a somewhat higher level — around 20 percent — it can power a research reactor. The United States and its allies fear Iran secretly intends to further enrich its low-enriched uranium to more than 90 percent purity, the level needed to build a bomb. Iran contends its program is intended only to generate electricity.

Around 2,200 pounds of low-enriched uranium is needed to produce enough weapons-

grade uranium for a single nuclear warhead, according to experts. Iran is believed to have well over that amount of low-enriched uranium in its stockpiles.

The U.N. plan would require Iran to send 2,420 pounds (1,100 kilograms) to Russia in one batch by the end of the year to be enriched further. It would then be sent to France to be made into isotopes for use in a Tehran research reactor. Doing so would put Iran well below the quantity needed for a bomb — for a period, anyway, until it enriches more uranium in its facility to refill its stockpiles.

Since the agreement was first discussed in Geneva earlier this month between Tehran and six world powers, diplomats from some of the countries involved have insisted the uranium shipment would have to be in one batch to be acceptable, or in two, at most, with little time elapsed in between.

If Iran makes the shipments in small batches, it would be able to make up for those small amounts quickly by producing more low-enriched uranium, meaning that its stockpile would never be depleted enough to delay its ability to create highly enriched — or weapons-grade — uranium.

Even if Iran does ship the entire amount all at once, it could replenish it “in little over a year,” said David Albright, of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.

“If all of it comes out within a few months then it remains a win-win for the United States, but after a few months it's a loser, because Iran can quickly replace the low-enriched uranium that it sends out,” he told The Associated Press. “Therefore you don't buy any time.”

Iran has come under three rounds of U.N. sanctions for its refusal to suspend its uranium-enrichment program. Tehran insists it has a right to the program to develop fuel for electricity-generating reactors. Even as it mulls the deal for shipping uranium abroad, it has made clear it will continue with enriching its own uranium. □



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# BVI jury convicts U.S. man in scuba death of wife

DAVID McFADDEN,  
Associated Press Writer

TORTOLA, British Virgin Islands (AP) — A jury convicted a Rhode Island man of murder Tuesday in the drowning of his wife during a 1999 scuba-diving trip in the British Virgin Islands.

A judge expects to sentence David Swain on Nov. 4. He faces life in prison and would be sent to a Tortola prison where he has been held for about two years.

Swain did not react when the verdict was read. The parents of the victim, Shelley Tyre, gasped.

After obtaining permission from the judge, her father, Richard Tyre, walked to the witness box and clutched a microphone. "We're old, we're in our 80s, and when Shelley was killed, our life pretty much ended," he said in a broken voice. He then left the courtroom.

The nine jurors had four hours to produce a verdict under local law. Although only a seven-vote majority was required, Supreme Court Justice Indra Hariprashad-Charles urged the seven women and two men to issue a unanimous verdict after giving a three-hour summation of the case, and they did.

Defense attorney Timothy Bradl, of the Boston-based firm Denner Pellegrino, said the verdict would be appealed to the Eastern Caribbean Court. He said he noted several problems during the judge's summation, but gave no example. Swain was led out of the British Virgin Islands Supreme Court to the flash of cameras but made no comment as he entered an armored car.

His son, Jeremy Swain, held an impromptu news conference outside the

courtroom to defend his father. "My father is an innocent man," he said.

Prosecutors accused Swain of killing his wife so he could pursue a romance with a Rhode Island chiropractor as well as gain his wife's inheritance estimated at \$630,000 and save his now-shuttered dive shop.

The prosecution presented experts who testified that they believed Swain wrestled his wife from behind, tore off her scuba mask and shut off her air supply while diving near a shipwreck.

The drowning was initially ruled an accident, but authorities in the British Virgin Islands charged Swain with murder after a 2006 civil trial in Rhode Island found him responsible for his wife's death. That jury awarded Tyre's family \$3.5 million, but Swain filed for bankruptcy and has not paid



David Swain, center, arrives in handcuffs escorted by prison guards to the High Court building in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009.

Associated Press

the sum.

Swain was extradited to the British Virgin Islands the following year and had been jailed since.

Defense attorneys maintained the poorly done autopsy report could not rule out medical reasons for Tyre's death, including the possibility that

she suffered a heart attack or stroke during what they say was an accidental drowning. The trial, which began nearly three weeks ago, was postponed last year after defense lawyers said they had trouble finding experts because of financial constrictions. □

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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Phillies, Yankees set for World Series

**BEN WALKER**  
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With All-Stars at most spots, mixed in with MVPs and Cy Young award-winning pitchers, the Philadelphia Phillies boast a rich roster, full of World Series success. So how come the defending champion Phillies are such underdogs?

Probably because they're facing the team that has defined championship baseball for so long.

Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Andy Pettitte and the New York Yankees, hoping to include Alex Rodriguez in a major celebration this October.

A pair of teams separated by a 90-minute drive, with no real rivalry to speak of despite their century-long histories.

That could all change starting Wednesday night. Ryan Howard, Jimmy Rollins and the Phillies are set to dig in against CC Sabathia in Game 1 at Yankee Stadium. "I think the fact that we're playing the Yankees and it's close to Philadelphia, and how the fans and the media react to it, and how both cities look forward to it, that puts more icing on the cake," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said Monday. "It does something for the game."

The Phillies trained at Citizens Bank Park before hopping an Amtrak train for the hour-plus trip to Penn Station in midtown Manhattan. Whether they ride back up next week will be decided later — none of the last five World Series has lasted more than five games.

How much of the country will tune in to the all-Northeast matchup remains to be seen. The bookmakers in Las Vegas already have taken a look — in spite of the Phillies' credentials, the Yankees are heavy 2-to-1 favorites.

Philadelphia is trying to become the National League's first repeat champion since the 1975-76 "Big Red Machine" in Cincinnati. The Yankees return to the World Series for the first time since 2003, having last won in 2000.

Cliff Lee opens for the Phillies, hoping to continue their run that includes a five-game romp over Tampa Bay in last year's World Series. At 16-4, Philadelphia has assembled the best record over a 20-game span by an NL team in postseason history.

Manuel hasn't shown any tendency to pitch around opposing sluggers, so Lee, Cole Hamels and Pedro Martinez figure to challenge



Philadelphia Phillies players celebrate after winning Game 5 of the National League Championship baseball series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, in Philadelphia. The Phillies defeated the Dodgers 10-4 to win the National League Championship.

Rodriguez from the start. A-Rod hit .438 with five home runs and 12 RBIs through the playoffs. This is his first foray into baseball's big event. "A lot of great players have never had the opportunity to play in the World Series," Rodriguez said Sunday after the Yankees' clinching win over the Angels in Game 6 of the American League championship series.

"It's been a dream of mine since I was a 5-year-old boy to play in the World Series. In order to win the World Series, you have to get there and we've done that now," he said. It's a power-packed matchup, marking the first time since 1926 the World Series pits the teams that finished 1-2 in the majors

in home runs, according to STATS LLC. Back then, Babe Ruth and the Yankees led with 121, followed by St. Louis with 90.

This year, Mark Teixeira and the Yankees hit 244 and the Phillies tied with Texas at 224. Add in two homer-friendly parks, along with the teams that led their leagues in runs, and runs could flow. Then again, everyone knows that pitching rules the postseason — neither Manuel nor Yankees manager Joe Girardi has announced his plans, though New York seems to be leaning toward a three-man rotation of Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Pettitte.

But what about Brad Lidge? A postseason star last year,

*Associated Press* the Phillies reliever was a bust this season. That is, until this October — he was the only closer in the playoffs who did not give up a run. Also worth watching: the forecast.

After last year's World Series ended with a game suspended two days because of rain, more wet weather might be on the way.

AccuWeather.com said a storm was headed toward the Bronx and predicted rain and temperatures in the mid-50s for Game 1, with the drizzle possibly lingering for Game 2 Thursday night. The first World Series game at the new, \$1.5 billion Yankee Stadium will be played across the street from the old ballpark, where a record 26 championship banners flew.

"There's definitely a special mystique when you walk into Yankee Stadium, new or old," Phillies outfielder Jayson Werth said. "It's the cathedral of baseball, where everybody wanted to play as a kid." □



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## NHL Roundup

## Rangers top Coyotes, snap 3-game losing streak

NEW YORK (AP) — Marian Gaborik scored two goals and added an assist as the New York Rangers beat the Phoenix Coyotes 5-2 on Monday.

The Rangers netted two goals on five shots in the first period and two more on only six more attempts in the second to chase goalie Ilya Bryzgalov. Gaborik's first score of the night gave New York a 2-0 lead and his second — the 10th this season — made it 4-0. In between, Gaborik set up Vinny Prospal for another goal.

The Rangers snapped a three-game losing streak that came on the heels of a seven-game winning run. Artem Anisimov scored for the second straight game, Enver Lisin added a third-period goal, and Henrik Lundqvist made 30 saves for the Rangers.

**Canadiens 3, Islanders 2, OT**

At Montreal, Roman Hamrlik scored 1:32 into overtime to

lift Montreal past the New York Islanders for its fourth straight win.

Hamrlik took Tomas Plekanec's centering flip pass from the right side on a 2-on-1 and put a shot into the open left side.

Jeff Tambellini drew New York even for the second time 15:24 into the third with his second power-play goal of the game.

Travis Moen, who assisted on Jaroslav Spacek's goal in the first, got his third goal 7:44 into the third period to put the Canadiens up 2-1. Glen Metropolit assisted on both Montreal goals.

**Blackhawks 3, Wild 1**

At Chicago, Patrick Kane scored a spectacular third-period goal just 3:25 after Minnesota had made it a one-goal game and Chicago left the Wild winless from eight road games.

Cristobal Huet made 20 saves and extended his shutout streak

to 113 minutes, 2 seconds before Andrew Brunette's power-play goal on a wild scramble in front of the net cut Chicago's lead to 2-1 at 3:29 of the third.

Dave Bolland and Troy Brouwer scored in the first period for the Blackhawks.

Minnesota became the first NHL team to earn zero points in its opening eight road games since Pittsburgh in 1996.

At Anaheim, California, Niklas Hagman scored three of Toronto's five power-play goals as the Maple Leafs finally earned their first victory of the season.

Tomas Kaberle scored a career-high five points and Lee Stempniak added a career-best four as the Maple Leafs finally slowed the worst start in the Original Six franchise's history.

Jonas Gustavsson made 25 saves in his first start in nearly three weeks as Toronto repeatedly capitalized on



Phoenix Coyotes goalie Jason LaBarbera (1) reacts after giving up his fifth goal to New York Rangers Enver Lisin in the Coyotes 5-2 loss to the Rangers in their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Oct. 26, 2009. LaBarbera replaced goalie Ilya Bryzgalov.

*Associated Press*

Anaheim's 17 penalties and all-around sloppy play. The Maple Leafs scored four goals while Anaheim had just three skaters on the ice, including three two-man advantage goals.

Petteri Nokelainen, Bobby

Ryan and Corey Perry scored for the slumping Ducks.

**In other NHL games it was, N.Y. Rangers 5, Phoenix 2; Montreal 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT; Chicago 3, Minnesota 1; and Toronto 6, Anaheim 3.** □



Mike Ditka speaks at a news conference Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009 in Chicago. Ditka and his Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund announced an expanded medical program in advance of Wednesday's Congressional hearing on head injuries among NFL players.

*Associated Press*

**By FREDERIC J. FROMMER**  
**Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON — The head of the NFL Players Association said Tuesday his union has differences with the NFL over how to address head injuries suffered during pro football games, but they're not fighting about it.

One day before a congressional hearing about head injuries in professional football players, union head DeMaurice Smith credited the NFL for doing a

"tremendous job" to improve player safety in the past five years.

"This is not a battle between us and the league," Smith said.

But he also complained that he didn't have access to the medical information the NFL collects on its players. That information, he said, can be used "to come up with better, safer ways to not only deal with their exposure to injury on the field, but also to improve their lives off the field."

## NFLPA: No battle with league on head injuries

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said he wasn't aware of any medical information the league isn't sharing with the union.

"We share a great deal of medical information with the union and the players have full access to their medical records," Aiello said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Smith will testify along with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell; Rep. Bill Pascrell, a New Jersey Democrat and co-chairman of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force; medical experts and former players, including former New York Giants running back Tiki Barber. Among the medical experts testifying are researchers from the Boston University School of Medicine, who announced last week that a football player who never competed beyond the college level suffered from a degenerative brain disease previously discovered in

former NFL players.

It was the first time an advanced case of chronic traumatic encephalopathy was found in a player who did not advance past the college game — suggesting athletes could be at risk for CTE even if they don't play professionally. CTE, originally found in boxers, is caused by repetitive trauma to the brain, with similar symptoms to Alzheimer's disease. The hearing will look at the lasting impact of head injuries, how to limit them and how to compensate players and their families. A preliminary study done for the NFL suggested retired pro football players may have a higher rate than normal of Alzheimer's disease or other memory problems. Lead author David Weir, who is among the witnesses for Wednesday's hearing, has said the results show the topic is worth further study but they

do not prove a link between playing football and later mental troubles.

When the study was released, the NFL said further study is already under way and stressed that memory disorders affect many men and women who never played football or other sports. Dr. Thom Mayer, the union's medical director, said at the news conference that football is a sport where 100 percent of the participants will get injured.

"Not everyone has a head injury, but it's common enough that it's the thing that we're most concerned about," he said.

Mayer said that rules changes and improvements in helmet technology have helped, but he'd like to see further improvements in how to handle players both immediately after and in the days following a concussion, and in decisions on when to return to play. □





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*NFL Roundup*

# Eagles roll, beat Redskins 27-17

JOSEPH WHITE,

AP Sports Writer

LANDOVER, Maryland

(AP) — DeSean Jackson

scored on a 67-yard reverse

throw and caught a 57-yard

touchdown pass in the first

half as the Philadelphia

Eagles converted three

turnovers into points

Monday in a 27-17 win over

the Washington Redskins.

Nearly all the scoring

came in the first half of

an injury-filled game

— Philadelphia's Brian

Westbrook (concussion) and

Washington's Chris Cooley

(right ankle) left early and

didn't return. The win got

the Eagles (4-2) back to form

after last week's jarring loss

to the Oakland Raiders.

Donovan McNabb

completed 15 of 25 passes

for 156 yards, getting his

200th touchdown pass and

surpassing 30,000 yards

passing for his career.

The defense sacked Jason

Campbell six times, and

newcomer Will Witherspoon

ran back an interception for

a touchdown and created

another turnover even

though he's been with the

team for only a week.

Offensive consultant Sherm

Lewis has been with the

Redskins (2-5) for only three

weeks after being lured out



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson escapes the grasp of Washington Redskins cornerback Carlos Rogers and scores during the first quarter of NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 26, 2009 in Landover, Md.

*Associated Press*

of a retirement consisting of bingo-calling and Meals on Wheels — and his first try at calling the plays proved as unsuccessful as when head coach Jim Zorn was handling the task.

Zorn was stripped of the duty by the front office after last week's loss to Kansas City, causing so much consternation that the front office then felt the need to

announce that Zorn won't be fired anytime soon.

It made no difference. The makeshift offensive line again failed to protect Campbell or create room for Clinton Portis, who rushed for only 43 yards and at one point chucked his helmet on the sideline in frustration. Campbell finished 29 for 43 for 284 yards and two touchdowns for the Redskins,

who have yet to score more than 17 points in a game this season. Campbell threw his seventh interception of the season, one more than he had all last season.

Washington trailed 27-10 at halftime, and Campbell's consolation touchdown pass to Fred Davis in the final two minutes was the only scoring in the second half. □

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# Colombia y EEUU firmarán defensa esta semana

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Colombia firmará al final de esta semana un controvertido pacto de seguridad con Estados Unidos para fortalecer su lucha contra el “narcoterrorismo”, anunció el martes el ministro de Defensa colombiano, Gabriel Silva. El acuerdo, que da a Estados Unidos acceso a siete bases en Colombia para reforzar las operaciones colombianas contra el narcotráfico y la guerrilla, ha sido criticado por países vecinos, como Venezuela y Ecuador, por alentar una mayor presencia militar de Estados Unidos en la región.

Sin embargo, Silva señaló que el acuerdo era una continuación de la misma cooperación militar con Estados Unidos, que data de 1952, y que Colombia había viajado grandes distancias para explicar el tema a sus aprehensivos vecinos.

“Es un paso más en una cooperación que lleva más de 50 años, y específicamente en la lucha contra el narcotráfico”, dijo a la prensa.

“El acuerdo no tiene nada nuevo en ese sentido, y no tiene ninguna connotación geopolítica ni estratégica distinta a ser más eficaces en la lucha contra el

narcotráfico y el narcoterrorismo”, agregó.

Silva dijo que el Gobierno colombiano no está legalmente obligado a acoger la opinión del Consejo de Estado, que recomendó la semana pasada que el acuerdo con Estados Unidos sea sometido a la consideración del Congreso y de la Corte Constitucional, señalando que procederá a su firma.

Silva, quien visitó Washington para estar “sintonizados en todos los temas” y reunirse con el secretario de Defensa estadounidense, Robert Gates, comentó que el acuerdo probablemente sería firmado el viernes, a su regreso a Bogotá.

El ministro dijo que un 70 por ciento de los colombianos apoya el acuerdo porque quieren más seguridad, preocupación compartida por algunos países latinoamericanos como México, Guatemala, Perú y Paraguay. □

Foto de archivo del ministro de Defensa colombiano, Gabriel Silva, durante una conferencia de prensa en Bogotá, oct 6 2009. REUTERS/Fredy Builes



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